## Claims

What is claimed is :

1. A method for composing an electronic document from the content of one or a plurality of parts of one or a plurality of physical documents selected by a user, said
5   method comprising the step of :

- creating, for each selection made by the user, a record in a table, said record comprising means for associating a part selected by the user with its electronic copy, said step, for use in a computer device, comprising the further steps of :
    for each selected document :
10      - receiving means identifying the document selected by the user;
        - receiving means for accessing an electronic copy of said document;
        - receiving means identifying one or a plurality of pages selected by the user of a physical copy of said document, said physical document comprising one or a plurality of pages;
15      for each selected page :
        - receiving means defining on the selected page, one or a plurality of parts selected by the user;
        for each selected part :
        - storing said means defining the selected part in a selections table;
20      - associating in said selections table, said means defining the selected part with :
            - said means identifying the selected document;
            - said means identifying the selected page;
            - said means for accessing the electronic copy of said document.

25  2. The method according to the preceding claim wherein said step of receiving means defining on the selected page, one or a plurality of parts selected by the user, comprises for each selected part,  the step of :

- receiving from a digitizing tablet connected to the computer device, means defining on the selected page, the part selected by the user, the transparent

digitizing tablet being placed aligned over or under the selected page, and the selected part being marked over the digitizing tablet by means of a stylus or any writing means.

3. The method according to the preceding claim wherein to mark the selected part
5  over the digitizing tablet, a polygonal line is drawn by the user over the digitizing tablet around the selected part , said polygonal line being displayed on the digitizing tablet.

4. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein said means defining on the selected page the part selected by the user, comprises :

10  • the coordinates of the points defining the polygonal line captured and digitized by the digitizing tablet.

5. The method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein :

• said means identifying the document is a document reference preferably a document number or document name;
15  • said means for having access to the electronic copy of the document is a network address of a server where the electronic copy is located;
• said means identifying a page on the physical copy of the document is a page number.

6. The method according to the preceding claim wherein :

20  • said document reference;
• said network address;
• said page number;

are printed on or attached to the physical copy of the document and entered in the computer device by means of any user interface such as keyboard, mouse, voice
25  recognition system, or any reading means such as bar code reader.

7. The method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein :

- said network is an Internet Protocol (IP) network;
- said network address is an Uniform Resource locator (URL);
- said server is a Web server;
5 - said electronic copy is an HyperText Markup Language (HTML) document

8. The method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein said computer device is connected to the network.

9. The method according to any one of the claims 1 to 7 wherein said computer device is a stand-alone handheld computer device.

10 10. The method according to the preceding claim comprising the further step of :

- transferring the selections table to a computer device connected to the network.

11. The method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the electronic copy of the document is an exact representation said document.

12. The method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the electronic 15 copy of the document comprises text, graphics, images, hyperlinks.

13. The method according to any one of the preceding claims comprising the further step of :

- retrieving an electronic copy corresponding to a part of a physical document selected by the user, said step comprising the further steps of:

20 - receiving means designating a record in the selections table;
- identifying in the designated record :
  - means identifying a document;
  - means identifying a page of the document;
  - means for accessing an electronic copy of the document;

- retrieving the electronic copy of the identified page from the electronic copy of the identified document;

- identifying, in the designated record, means defining a part of the identified page;

5  - marking said part on the retrieved electronic copy of the identified page;

- copying the marked part of the electronic copy of the page into a destination document.


14. The method according to the preceding claim wherein the step of retrieving the electronic copy of the identified page from the electronic copy of the identified

10  document, comprises the further step of :


- sending a request, through the network, to the server where the electronic document is located, said request comprising :
    - said means identifying the document;
    - said means identifying the page of the document.


15  15. The method according to any one of claims 13 to 14 wherein the step of marking said part on the retrieved electronic copy of the identified page, comprises the further step of:


- displaying the retrieved electronic copy of the identified page;
- visualizing said part by using the coordinates, stored in the selections table, of
20     the points defining the polygonal line drawn by the user around the selected part.


16. The method according to any one of claims 13 to 15 wherein the step of copying the marked part of the electronic copy of the page into a destination electronic document, comprises the further steps of :


25  - copying or cutting the marked part of the electronic copy into a buffer, preferably the operating system clipboard;

- pasting the buffer content into a destination document specified by the user.

17. A computer device comprising means adapted for carrying out the steps of the method according to any one of the preceding claims.

18. A computer program comprising instructions for carrying on the steps of the method according to any one of claims 1 to 16 when said computer program is
5  executed on the computer system according to the preceding claim.